

## WEL

- Then than the ill; and know, my dear,  
Kindness, and constancy will prove  
The only pillars fit to bear  
So vast a weight as that of love. *Prior.*
4. Gravity; heaviness; tendency to the center.  
Heaviness or weight is not here considered as being such a  
natural quality, whereby condensed bodies do of themselves  
tend downwards; but rather as being an affection, whereby  
they may be measured. *Wilkins.*
- The shaft that slightly was impress'd,  
Now from his heavy fall with weight increas'd,  
Drove through his neck. *Dryden.*
- What natural agent impel them so strongly with a transverse  
force blow against that tremendous weight and rapidity, when  
whole worlds are falling? *Bentley.*
5. Pressure; burthen; overwhelming power.  
Thou art no Atlas for so great a weight. *Shakespeare.*
- So shall the world go on,  
To good malignant, to bad men benign,  
Under her own weight groaning. *Milton.*
- We must those, who groan beneath the weight  
Of age, disease, or want, commiserate. *Denham.*
- The prince may carry the plough, but the weight lies upon  
the people. *L'Estrange.*
- Possession's load was grown so great,  
He sunk beneath the cumbrous weight. *Swift.*
6. Importance; power; influence; efficacy.  
How to make ye suddenly an answer,  
In such a point of weight, so near mine honour,  
In truth I know not. *Shakespeare. Henry VIII.*
- If this right of heir carry any weight with it, if it be the  
ordinance of God, must not all be subject to it. *Locke.*
- To make the sense of esteem or disgrace sink the deeper,  
and be of the more weight, other agreeable or disagreeable  
things should constantly accompany these different states. *Locke.*
- An author's arguments lose their weight, when we are per-  
suaded that he only writes for argument's sake. *Addison.*
- See, Lord, the sorrows of my heart,  
Ere yet it be too late;  
And hear my Saviour's dying groans,  
To give those sorrows weight. *Addison's Spectator.*
- The solemnities that encompas the magistrate add dignity  
to all his actions, and weight to all his words. *Atterbury.*
- WEIGHTILY. *adv.* [from weighty.]  
1. Heavily; ponderously.  
2. Solidly; importantly.
- Is his poetry the worse, because he makes his agents speak  
weightily and sententiously? *Brown's Notes on the Odyssey.*
- WEIGHTINESS. *n. f.* [from weighty.]  
1. Ponderosity; gravity; heaviness.  
2. Solidity; force.
- I fear I have dwelt longer on this passage than the weightiness  
of any argument in it requires. *Locke.*
3. Importance.  
The apparent defect of her judgment, joined to the weighti-  
ness of the adventure, caused many to marvel. *Hayward.*
- WEIGHTLESS. *adj.* [from weighty.]  
1. Light; having no gravity.  
How by him balanc'd in the weightless air?  
Can't thou the wisdom of his works declare? *Sandys.*
2. Not possible to be weighed. Improper.  
It must both weightless and immortal prove,  
Because the centre of it is above. *Dryden.*
- WEIGHTY. *adj.* [from weighty.]  
1. Heavy; ponderous.  
You have already weary'd fortune so,  
She cannot farther be your friend or foe;  
But sits all breathless, and admires to feel  
A fate so weighty, that it stops her wheel. *Dryden.*
2. Important; momentous; efficacious.  
I to your assistance do make love,  
Masking the business from the common eye  
For sundry weighty reasons. *Shakespeare. Macbeth.*
- No fool Pythagoras was thought:  
Whilst he his weighty doctrines taught,  
He made his lifting scholars stand;  
Their mouth still cover'd with their hand:  
Else, may-be, some odd-thinking youth,  
Lest friend to doctrine than to truth,  
Might have refus'd to let his ears  
Attend the music of the spheres. *Prior.*
- Thus spoke to my lady the knight full of care,  
Let me have your advice in a weighty affair. *Swift.*
3. Rigorous; severe. Not in use.  
If, after two days thine, Athens contains thee,  
Attend our weightier judgment. *Shakespeare. Timon.*
- WE'LAWAY. *interj.* [This I once believed a corruption of *wel*  
away, that is, *baptisms* is gone: so Junius explained it; but  
the Saxon exclamation is palapa, *woe* or *woe*: from *welaway*, is  
formed by corruption *weladay*.] Alas. *Swift.*
- Harrow now out, and welaway, he cried,  
What dismal day hath sent this cursed light! *Spenser.*

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- Ah, *welaway*! most noble lords, how can  
Your cruel eyes endure so piteous sight? *Fairy Queen.*
- Welaway*, the while I was so fond,  
To leave the good that I had in hand. *Spenser.*
- WE'LCOME. *adj.* [from *venu*, French; *pilume*, Saxon; *wel-*  
*kom*, Dutch.]  
1. Received with gladness; admitted willingly to any place or  
enjoyment; grateful; pleasing.  
I serve you, madam: *Shakespeare. King Lear.*
- Your graces are right welcome. *Shakespeare. King Lear.*
- He, though not of the plot, will like it,  
And with it should proceed; for, unto men  
Prest with their wants, all change is ever welcome. *B. Johns.*
- Here let me earn my bread,  
Till oft invoked death  
Hasten the welcome end of all my pains. *Milton.*
- He that knows how to make those he converses with easy,  
has found the true art of living, and being welcome and valued  
every where. *Locke.*
2. To bid WELCOME. To receive with professions of kindness.  
Some stood in a row in so civil a fashion, as if to *welcome*  
us; and divers put their arms a little abroad, which is their  
gesture when they bid any welcome. *Bacon.*
- WE'LCOME. *interj.* A form of salutation used to a new comer,  
elliptically used for you are welcome.  
*Welcome*, he said,  
O long expected to my dear embrace. *Dryden.*
- Welcome*, great monarch, to your own. *Dryden.*
- WE'LCOME. *n. f.*  
1. Salutation of a new comer.  
*Welcome* ever smiles, and farewell goes out sighing. *Shakespeare.*
- Welcomes* opening his free arms, and weeping  
His welcome forth. *Shakespeare. Winter's Tale.*
2. Kind reception of a new comer.  
I should be free from injuries, and abound as much in the  
true causes of *welcomes*, as I should find want of the effects  
thereof. *Stacy.*
- I look'd not for you yet, nor am provided  
For your fit welcome. *Shakespeare. King Lear.*
- Madam, new years may well expect to find  
*We* come from you, to whom they are so kind:  
Still as they pass they court and smile on you,  
And make your beauty as themselves seem new. *Waller.*
- Where diligence opens the door of the understanding,  
and impartiality keeps it, truth finds an entrance and a welcome  
too. *South's Sermons.*
- To WELCOME. *v. a.* To salute a new comer with kindness.  
I know no cause  
Why I should welcome such a guest as grief,  
Save bidding farewell to so sweet a guest  
As my sweet Richard. *Shakespeare. Richard II.*
- They stood in a row in so civil a fashion, as if to *welcome*  
us. *Bacon.*
- Thus we salute thee with our early song,  
And welcome thee, and wish thee long. *Milton.*
- To *welc* me home  
His warlike brother, is Pirithous come  
The lark and linnet strain their warbling throats,  
To welcome in the Spring. *Dryden.*
- WE'LCOME to our House. *n. f.* An herb.  
WE'LCOMENESS. *n. f.* [from *welcome*.] Gratefulness.  
Our joys, after some centuries of years, may seem to have  
grown elder, by having been enjoyed so many ages; yet will  
they really still continue new, not only upon the scores of their  
*welcomeness*, but by their perpetually equal, because infinite,  
distance from a period. *Boyle.*
- WE'LCOMER. *n. f.* [from *welcome*.] The saluter or receiver of  
a new comer.  
Farewel, thou woful *welcomer* of glory. *Shakespeare.*
- WE'LD, or WOULD. *n. f.* [from *luteola*, Latin.] Yellow weed, or  
dyers weed.  
Its leaves are oblong and intire: it has an anomalous flower,  
consisting of many dissimilar leaves: the fruit is globular, hol-  
low, and divided into three parts. The dyers use it for dying  
bright yellows and lemon colours; and this is by some sup-  
posed to be the plant used by the ancient Persians in painting  
their bodies. *Miller.*
- To WELD. *v. a.* To beat one mass into another, so as to in-  
corporate them.  
Sparkling or welding heat is used when you double up your  
iron to make it thick enough, and so *weld* or work in the  
doubling into one another. *Moxon's Mech. Exer.*
- WE'LDER. *n. f.* A term perhaps merely Irish; though it may  
be derived from *To weld*, to *turn* or *manage*: whence *welder*,  
welder.  
Such immediate tenants have others under them, and so a  
third and fourth in subordination, till it comes to the *welder*,  
as they call him, who sits at a rack-rent, and lives mile-  
rably. *Swift.*
- WE'LFARE. *n. f.* [well and fare.] Happiness; success; prosperity.  
If friends to a government forsake their assistance, they put  
it

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- it in the power of a few desperate men to ruin the welfare of  
those who are superior to them in strength and interest. *Add.*
- Discretion is the perfection of reason: cunning is a kind of  
instinct that only looks out after our immediate interest and  
advantages. *Addison's Spectator.*
- To WELK. *v. a.* [Of this word in *Spenser* I know not well the  
meaning: pealcan, in Saxon, is to roll; *welken*, in German,  
and *welken*, in Saxon, are clouds; whence I suppose *welk*,  
roll or whirl is an undulation or corrugation, or corrugated  
or convoluted body. *Wilk* is used for a small shell-fish.] To  
cloud; to obscure.  
Now bid Winter *welk* bath the day,  
And Phebus, weary of his yearly task,  
Established hath his steeds in lowly lay,  
And taken up his inn in fishes' hark. *Spenser.*
- As gentle shepherd in sweet eventide,  
When ruddy Phebus 'gins to *welk* in West,  
Marks which do bite their hasty supper best. *Fairy Queen.*
- The *welk* Phebus 'gan avail  
His weary wain. *Spenser.*
- WE'KED. *adj.* Wrinkled; wreathed.  
Methought his eyes  
Were two full moons: he had a thousand noses,  
Horns *welk'd* and wad'd like the unriddged sea. *Shakespeare.*
- WE'KIN. *n. f.* [from pealcan, to roll, or pelcen, clouds; Sax.]  
1. The visible regions of the air. Out of use, except in poetry.  
Ne in all the *welkin* was no cloud. *Chaucer.*
- He leaves the *welkin* way most beaten plain,  
And rapt with whirling wheels inflames the skyen,  
With fire not made to burn, but fairly for to shine. *Pa. Qu.*
- The swallow peeps out of her nest,  
And cloudy *welkin* cleareth. *Spenser's Pastoral.*
- Spur your proud horses hard, and ride in blood:  
Amaze the *welkin* with your broken flaves. *Shak. R. III.*
- With feats of arms  
From either end of heav'n the *welkin* burns. *Milton.*
- Now my task is smoothly done,  
I can fly, or I can run  
Quickly to the green earth's end,  
Where the bow'd *welkin* flow doth bend. *Milton.*
- Their hideous yells  
Rend the dark *welkin*. *Philips.*
2. WELKIN EYE, is, I suppose, blue eye; skycoloured eye.  
Yet were it true  
To say this boy were like me! Come, sir page,  
Look on me with your *welkin* eye, sweet villain. *Shakespeare.*
- WELL. *n. f.* [well, Saxon.]  
1. A spring; a fountain; a source.  
Begin then, sisters of the sacred well,  
That from beneath the seat of Jove doth spring. *Milton.*
- As the root and branch are but one tree,  
And *well* and stream do but one river make;  
So if the root and *well* corrupted be,  
The stream and branch the same corruption take. *Davies.*
2. A deep narrow pit of water.  
The muscles are so many *well*-buckets: when one of them  
ads and draws, 'tis necessary that the other must obey. *Dryden.*
3. The cavity in which hairs are placed.  
Hollow newelled hairs are made about a square hollow  
newel: suppose the *well*-hole to be a plain foot long, and six  
foot wide, and we would bring up a dozen of hairs from the first  
floor eleven foot high, it being intended a sky-light shall fall  
through the hollow newel. *Moxon's Mech. Exer.*
- To WELL. *v. n.* [wellan, Saxon.] To spring; to issue as from  
a spring.  
Thereby a crystal stream did gently play,  
Which from a sacred fountain *welld* forth alway. *Pa. Qu.*
- The bubbling wave did ever freshly *well*. *Fairy Queen.*
- A dreary corse,  
All wallow'd in his own yet lukewarm blood,  
That from his wound yet *welld* fresh, alas!  
Himself affixes to lift him from the ground,  
With clotted locks, and blood that *welld* from out the  
wound. *Dryden's Zen.*
- From his two springs,  
Pure *welling* out, he through the lucid lake  
Of fair Dambea rolls his infant stream. *Thomson's Summer.*
- To WELL. *v. a.* To pour any thing forth.  
To her people wealth they forth do *well*,  
And health to every foreign nation. *Fairy Queen.*
- WE'LL. *adj.* [Well seems to be sometimes an adjective, though  
it is not always easy to determine its relations.]  
1. Not sick; not unhappy.  
Mark, we use  
To say the dead are *well*. *Shakespeare. Ant. and Cleopatra.*
- Lady, I am not *well*, else I should answer  
From a full flowing stomach. *Shakespeare. King Lear.*
- In poison there is physick; and this news,  
That would, had I been *well*, have made me sick,  
Being sick, hath in some measure made me *well*. *Shakespeare.*
- While thou art *well*, thou mayest do much good; but when  
thou art sick; thou canst not tell what thou shalt be able to do:

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- it is not very much nor very good. Few men mend with sick-  
ness, as there are but few who by travel and a wandering life  
become devout. *Taylor's Guide to Devotion.*
- Men under irregular appetites never think themselves *well*,  
so long as they fancy they might be better; then from better  
they must rise to best. *L'Estrange.*
- 'Tis easy for any, when *well*, to give advice to them that  
are not. *Wake's Preparation for Death.*
2. Convenient; happy.  
Holdings were so plentiful, and holders so scarce, as *well*  
was the landlord, who could get one to be his tenant. *Carew.*
- Charity is made the constant companion and perfection of  
all virtues; and *well* it is for that virtue where it most enters,  
and longest stays. *Sprat's Sermons.*
- This exactness is necessary, and it would be *well* too, if it  
extended itself to common conversation. *Locke.*
- It would have been *well* for Genoa, if she had followed  
the example of Venice, in not permitting her nobles to make  
any purchase of lands in the dominions of a foreign prince. *Ad.*
3. Being in favour.  
He followed the fortunes of that family; and was *well*  
with Henry the fourth. *Dryden.*
4. Recovered from any sickness or misfortune.  
I am forry  
For your displeasure; but all will sure be *well*. *Shakespeare.*
- Just thoughts, and modest expectations are easily satisfied.  
If we don't over-rate our pretensions, all will be *well*. *Celcius.*
- WELL. *adv.* [well, Gothick; pell, Saxon; wel, Dutch; vel,  
Hollandick.]  
1. Not ill; not unhappily.  
Some sense, and more estate, kind heav'n  
To this *well*-lotted peer has given:  
What then? he must have rule and sway;  
Else all is wrong till he's in play. *Prior.*
2. Not ill; not wickedly.  
My bargains, and *well*-won thrift he calls int'rest. *Shak.*
- Thou one bad act with many deeds *well* done  
May'st cover. *Milton.*
3. Skillfully; properly.  
A private caution I know not *well* how to fort, unless I  
should call it political, by no means to build too near a great  
neighbour. *Wotton.*
- Beware and govern *well* thy appetite.  
Whether the learn'd Minerva be her theme,  
Or chaste Diana bathing in the stream;  
None can record their heavenly praise so *well*. *Dryden.*
- What poet would not mourn to see  
His brother write as *well* as he? *Swift.*
4. Not amiss; not unsuccessfully; not erroneously.  
Solymann commended them for a plot so *well* by them laid,  
more than he did the victory of others got by good fortune, not  
grounded upon any good reason. *Kneller.*
- The soldier that philosopher *well* blam'd,  
Who long and loudly in the schools declaim'd. *Denham.*
- 'Tis almost impossible to translate verbally and *well*. *Dryden.*
5. Not insufficiently; not defectively.  
The plain of Jordan was *well* watered every where. *Gensfr.*
- We are well able to overcome it. *Nim. xiii. 30.*
- The merchant adventurers being a strong company, and  
*well* underfet with rich men, held out bravely. *Bacon.*
6. To a degree that gives pleasure.  
I like *well*, in some places, fair columns upon frames of  
carpenters work. *Bacon.*
7. With praise; favourably.  
All the world speaks *well* of you. *Pope.*
8. Well is sometimes like the French *bien*, a term of concession.  
The knot might *well* be cut, but untied it could not be. *Sidney.*
- To know  
In measure what the mind can *well* contain. *Milton.*
9. It is a word by which something is admitted as the ground  
for a conclusion.  
*Well*, let's away, and say how much is done. *Shakespeare.*
- Well*, by this author's confession, a number superior are  
for the succession in the house of Hanover. *Swift.*
10. As *well* as. Together with; not less than.  
Coptos was the magazine of all the trade from *Aethiopia*,  
by the Nile, as *well* as of those commodities that came from  
the west by Alexandria. *Arbutnot on Coins.*
11. *Well* is him or me; *bene est*, he is happy.  
*Well* is him that dwelleth with a wife of understanding, and  
that hath not slipped with his tongue. *Ecclij. xxv. 8.*
12. *Well* nigh. Nearly; almost.  
I freed *well* nigh half th' angelick name. *Milton.*
13. It is used much in composition, to express any thing right,  
laudable, or not defective.  
Antiochus understanding him not be *well* affected to his af-  
fairs, provided for his own safety. *2 Mac. iv. 21.*
- There may be safety to the *well*-affected Persians; but to  
those which do conspire against us, a memorial of de-  
struction. *Esth. xvi. 23.*
- Should a whole host at once discharge the bow,  
My *well*-aim'd shaft with death prevents the foe. *Pope.*
- What